

**Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Granting Funds through the Local Government Boat In Lieu Program
to Provide Improved Access for Boaters at Whitefish City Beach**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Region 1
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901

November 14, 2002

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to grant funds to the City of Whitefish to improve access for boaters and continued beneficial use of city beach while preserving the habitat and water quality of Whitefish Lake and River. The project will eliminate sediment problems on the boat ramp by constructing a groin to recapture sand transported by wave action, mark with buoys the pipes that will remain in the area of the ramp, remove other obstacles, and install a signpost and holder or bulletin board for boating safety information.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposed to grant funding in the amount of \$25,000, which will be matched with \$24,780 of City funding.

Public Comment:

The City Council, at their regular meeting, heard public comments regarding the proposed reconstruction. In addition, seven letters were received by the City Council and Parks Department approving the project.

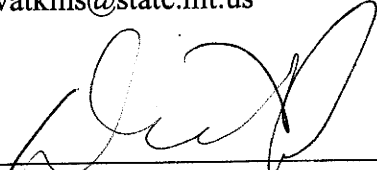
FWP sent legal notices to the local papers during a 30-day comment period on the Environmental Assessment. One comment opposed to the project, and several comments supporting the project were received. Due to the complete public comment prior to the writing of the EA, and the limited response from the EA, no public meeting was held other than the one at the City Council.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I find Alternative 4, grant funds to construct a groin to stabilize the sand, to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Environmental Assessment may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901. Please direct requests and questions to:

Marty Watkins, Parks Manager
490 N. Meridian
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
mawatkins@state.mt.us


Daniel P. Vincent
Regional Supervisor

11/15/02
Date

*Flathead
NISC*



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: (406) 257-0349
Ref:DV189-02
November 15, 2002

To: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks: Director's Office - Betty Johnson; Parks Division - Walt Timmerman, Tom Reilly; Legal Unit - Brandi Fisher; Design & Construction - Paul Valle.
Montana Historical Society, SHPO, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
Rep. Bob Lawson, Box 686, Whitefish, 59937-0686
Sen. Bob DePratu, PO Box 1217, Whitefish, 59937-1217
Flathead County Commissioners, 800 South Main St., Kalispell, 59901
Whitefish Parks & Recreation Dept., Attn: Dan Keyes, PO Box 158, Whitefish, MT 59937

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks has completed an environmental assessment to grant funds to the City of Whitefish through the local government Boating Improvement Program for the Whitefish City Beach boat ramp improvement project.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the decision document is enclosed. The final Environmental Assessment may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901. Please direct questions or comments to Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail to mawatkins@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Vincent
Region One Supervisor

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Enclosure